



4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Chapter III

Final Waiver and Extension of the Project Period; Community  
Parent Resource Centers

[Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:  
84.328C.]

AGENCY: Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP),  
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services,  
Department of Education.

ACTION: Final waiver and extension of the project period.

SUMMARY: For the nine currently funded Community Parent  
Resource Centers (CPRCs), the Secretary waives the  
requirements that generally prohibit project periods  
exceeding five years and extensions of project periods  
involving the obligation of additional Federal funds. This  
waiver and extension of the project period enables these  
nine CPRCs to receive funding from October 1, 2015, through  
September 30, 2016. Further, the waiver and extension of  
the project period mean that we will not announce a new  
competition or make new awards in fiscal year (FY) 2015.

DATES: The waiver and extension of the project period are effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carmen Sanchez, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 4057, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2600. Telephone: (202) 245-6595.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf or a text telephone, call the Federal Relay Service, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On March 9, 2015, we published a notice in the Federal Register (78 FR 46860) proposing an extension of project period and a waiver of 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(a) and (c)(2) in order to--

(1) Enable the Secretary to provide additional funds to the currently funded CPRCs for an additional 12-month project period, from October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016; and

(2) Request comments on the proposed extension of project period and waiver.

There are no substantive differences between the proposed waiver and extension and the final waiver and extension.

## Public Comment

In response to our invitation in the notice of proposed waiver and extension of the project period, we did not receive any substantive comments. Generally, we do not address comments that raise concerns not directly related to the proposed waiver and extension of project period.

## Background

On May 3, 2010, the Department of Education (Department) published in the Federal Register (75 FR 23254) a notice inviting applications (2010 NIA) for new awards for FY 2010 for up to 10 CPRCs. The CPRCs are funded under the Parent Training and Information (PTI) Program, authorized under sections 672 and 673 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The purpose of CPRCs is to provide underserved parents of children with disabilities in targeted communities--including low-income parents, parents of limited English proficient children, and parents with disabilities--with the training and information they need to enable them to participate cooperatively and effectively in helping their children with disabilities to--

(1) Meet developmental and functional goals, as well as challenging academic achievement standards that have been established for all children; and

(2) Be prepared to lead the most productive, independent adult lives possible.

The CPRCs provide training and information to parents of infants, toddlers, and children, from birth through age 26, with the full range of disabilities described in section 602(3) of IDEA by: (a) responding to individual requests for information and support from parents of children with disabilities, including parents of children who may be inappropriately identified in their targeted communities; (b) providing training to parents of children with disabilities; (c) supporting parents of children with disabilities, as needed, such as helping them to prepare for individualized education program or individualized family service plan meetings; and (d) maintaining a Web site and social media presence, as appropriate, to inform parents in their targeted communities of appropriate resources.

Based on the selection criteria in the 2010 NIA, the Department made awards for a period of 60 months each to 10 organizations, nine of which have received FY 2014 continuation funding: Fiesta Educativa in California; Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc. in Florida; Agenda for Children/Pyramid Parent Training in Louisiana; Urban PRIDE in Massachusetts; SPEAKS Education, Inc. in Michigan;

Education for Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs in New Mexico; Palau Parents Empowered in Palau; Philadelphia HUNE, Inc. in Pennsylvania; and Children's Disabilities Information Coalition in Texas.

The 2010 CPRC cohort's current project period is scheduled to end on September 30, 2015. We do not believe that it would be in the public interest to run a competition for new CPRCs this year because the Department is in the process of changing the competition schedule for the PTI Program to make better use of Department resources.

Under the proposed CPRC competition schedule, instead of holding three competitions over five years, each for 10 CPRCs, we would hold one competition for 30 CPRCs that will each have a project period of up to five years. We propose to hold this competition and fund 30 CPRCs in FY 2016. We also have concluded that it would be contrary to the public interest to provide services to fewer underserved families in order to change the Department's competition schedule.

For these reasons, the Secretary waives the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250, which prohibit project periods exceeding five years, as well as the requirements in 34 CFR 75.261(a) and (c)(2), which allow the extension of a project period only if the extension does not involve the obligation of additional Federal funds. The waiver

allows the Department to issue FY 2015 continuation awards of \$100,000 to each of the nine centers in the FY 2010 cohort.

Any activities carried out during the 12-month period of this continuation award will have to be consistent with, or a logical extension of, the scope, goals, and objectives of the grantee's application as approved in the FY 2010 CPRC competition. The requirements applicable to continuation awards for this competition set forth in the 2010 NIA and the requirements in 34 CFR 75.253 will apply to any continuation awards sought by the current CPRC grantees. We will base our decisions regarding continuation awards on the program narratives, budgets, budget narratives, and program performance reports submitted by the current grantees, and the requirements in 34 CFR 75.253.

#### Waiver of Delayed Effective Date

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that a substantive rule must be published at least 30 days before its effective date, except as otherwise provided for good cause (5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3)). We received no substantive comments on the proposed waiver and extension of project period, and we have not made any substantive changes to the proposed waiver and extension of project period. The

Secretary has made a determination to waive the delayed effective date to ensure there is no lapse in the parent training and information services currently provided by the CPRCs.

#### Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that this waiver and extension of the project period will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The only entities that will be affected by this waiver and extension of the project period are the current grantees receiving Federal funds and any other potential applicants.

The Secretary certifies that this waiver and final extension will not have a significant economic impact on these entities because the extension of existing project periods imposes minimal compliance costs, and the activities required to support the additional year of funding will not impose additional regulatory burdens or require unnecessary Federal supervision.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This notice of final waiver and extension of the project period does not contain any information collection requirements.

### Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance. This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.



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Dated: May 5, 2015

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Sue Swenson,  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Special Education and  
Rehabilitative Services.

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